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**NEWS RELEASE**

September 30, 2008

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## **Bench, Bar Gather to Remember Senior Circuit Judge Joseph T. Sneed III**

**SAN FRANCISCO** – The United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit recently convened in a special session to remember the late Senior Circuit Judge Joseph T. Sneed, III, an esteemed colleague renowned as a jurist, legal scholar and top government lawyer.

Associate Justice Anthony M. Kennedy of the U.S. Supreme Court presided over the special session, which was held September 22 in the ornate ceremonial courtroom of the James R. Browning U.S. Courthouse in San Francisco. In attendance were 30 Ninth Circuit judges along with judges of the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California, prominent members of the federal bar and court staff, including Judge Sneed's longtime special assistant Rollins Emerson.

Also present were members of Judge Sneed's family, including daughters Clara Sneed and Carly Fiorina, who spoke appreciatively of the display of respect and affection shown by their father's colleagues and friends.

Judge Sneed died February 9, 2008, at the age of 87. Over 35 years on the Ninth Circuit bench, he served on hundreds of appellate panels considering all aspects of the law and is remembered both for important opinions and noteworthy dissents. He also served in advisory roles to the Ninth Circuit, Federal Judicial Center, American Judicature Society and American Bar Association.

"Joe's voice was powerful in teaching that vigorous and fair competition, and reward based on merit can produce a dynamic, a beauty, a synthesis that lead to progress and achievement in the arts and the sciences and the law," said Justice Kennedy, who served on the Ninth Circuit with Judge Sneed from 1975 to his elevation to the Supreme Court in 1987.

"Our court here hears Joe's voice still and our jurisprudence, our tradition, our history and our spirit will always be the better for it," the justice said.

Speaking on behalf of the Ninth Circuit, Judge Diamuid O'Scannlain of Portland noted that Judge Sneed had excelled as a law professor and in government service, but truly found his calling on the federal bench.

"Joe relished his new life as a judge, reveling in the intellectual sparing with lawyers and colleagues alike. He was fully engaged, whether contributing to judicial administration and structural improvements or winning great respect for his well-crafted opinions," Judge O'Scannlain observed.

The crowning achievement of Judge Sneed's senior years, Judge O'Scannlain later noted, was his authorship of "Footprints on the Rocks of the Mountain," a history of the enactment of the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the Constitution, published in 1997.

David C. Frederick, Esq., a former law clerk, said that Judge Sneed, for all his accomplishments and accolades, "retained a basic practicality and modesty in all that he did.

"That practicality and modesty quintessential of Judge Sneed were nowhere more evident than in his grasp of the role and limits of the judicial system and the duties of judges," Mr. Frederick said.

Nominated by President Nixon, Judge Sneed received his judicial commission on August 24, 1973. He served as an active judge of the court until taking senior status on July 21, 1987. He continued to hear cases and serve the court in other capacities for many more years. At the time of his death, he was the fourth most senior judge on the court.

Before coming onto the federal bench, Judge Sneed served in the U.S. Department of Justice as the deputy attorney general in 1973. However, much of his career prior to that was spent in the classrooms of some of the nation's top law schools. He was the dean of the Duke University School of Law, 1971 to 1973, and a law professor at Stanford Law School, 1962 to 1971, and Cornell Law School, 1957 to 1962.

Judge Sneed also spent 10 years on the faculty of his law school alma mater, the University of Texas School of Law, where he received his LL.B. with Order of the Coif in 1947. He received an S.J.D. from Harvard Law School in 1958. He earned his undergrad degree from Southwestern University in 1941 and served as a staff sergeant in the Army Air Corps during World War II.

The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals hears appeals of cases decided by federal trial courts in nine western states and two Pacific Island jurisdictions. The court regularly hears cases in San Francisco, Pasadena, Portland and Seattle, and also travels periodically to other cities within the circuit to hold court.